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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-11 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5, and 9 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regarding as their invention. Claims 4, 8, and 12 are canceled, their subject matter having been incorporated into their respective independent claims.

Applicants note with appreciation Examiner Johnson's indication that original claims 4, 8, and 12 present allowable subject matter. The subject matter of these claims is incorporated into their respective independent claims. In doing so, 1) the Section 112 issues noted by the Examiner are addressed; 2) the subject matter incorporated into the independent claims is expressed in means-plus-function language; and 3) the subject matter of original claim 3 is not incorporated into independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted the amended independent claims present allowable subject matter in allowable form.

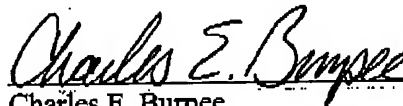
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In view of the indication of allowability, the above amendments, and these remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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